

the country which is the source of the majority of Guatemalan immigrants to the United States. Yet so far we have contributed only a few million dollars.

My amendment provides an additional \$12 million for assistance for Guatemala for relief and reconstruction activities related to Hurricane Stan. It is not as much as I wish we could provide, but I know that it will help address the most urgent needs of people who are trying to rebuild their lives.

I want to thank Senator McConnell for agreeing to accept this amendment.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the amendment being offered by my colleague from Vermont to provide much-needed emergency assistance to sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

Specifically, his amendment, which I am proud to cosponsor, would increase humanitarian aid funds by \$35 million.

The amendment has also now been modified to provide \$12 million for hurricane relief assistance to Guatemala, which I also support.

This supplemental is intended to meet emergencies. Well, many countries in Africa especially face dire emergencies, and the money provided in the Leahy amendment is desperately needed.

The United Nations reports that more than 8 million people are facing a food crisis in the Horn of Africa—2 million people in Ethiopia alone are facing critical food shortages.

The world has waited too long before, to respond to crises in Ethiopia and elsewhere. Let's act now and not wait for the television cameras to jar us into action.

The Bush administration has not requested additional funds in the supplemental bill to meet this mounting crisis, despite the fact that conditions in the region have worsened considerably in recent months.

Other regions are also facing emergency situations, most notably West Africa, the Great Lakes region, and Chad.

And yet, in spite of these growing needs, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance faces the prospect of having to slash the budgets of lifesaving programs.

I want to focus on one example: the Democratic Republic of Congo.

I am told that in the Democratic Republic of Congo, critical U.S. assistance budgets for this year may be cut in half.

In December, I visited the DRC, and I have to tell you, it is hard to imagine a place in greater need.

However, budgetary pressures are forcing U.S. programs in the DRC to collapse the depth and breadth of their efforts.

This means cutting food security programs, clean water, maternal and child health care programs, and other efforts to address fundamental human needs.

The DRC has been wracked by war for years.

Now, it finally sees some hope, but there are 2 million displaced people there.

The Democratic Republic of Congo has long been called one of the world's most neglected emergencies. Let's change that.

The situation in the DRC is just one of the humanitarian crises that currently plague the continent of Africa.

But we can make a difference. We must not cut our disaster assistance to countries like the Congo in half.

That kind of cut undermines everything we have been trying to do. It would be a strategic mistake and a moral failure.

I call on my colleagues to support this additional emergency aid offered by the Leahy amendment.

These supplemental funds are urgently needed and they will go a long way toward providing relief to the millions of Africans and others in the world who find themselves facing absolutely dire circumstances.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, this amendment is offset by a reduction in foreign economic assistance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? The question is—

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada reserves the right to object.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, may I ask the chairman of the committee, is this an increase in funding in this bill?

Mr. COCHRAN. No, it is not. If the Senator will yield, as I understand it, it shifts funds from a foreign economic assistance account to an account to provide disaster assistance in Guatemala for damages and expenses sustained in a hurricane.

Mr. ENSIGN. So this is no net increase in spending in the bill?

Mr. COCHRAN. My reading is that it transfers money from a foreign economic assistance account to one that provides disaster assistance for damages sustained in Guatemala as a result of a hurricane—Hurricane Stan I think was the name of it.

Mr. ENSIGN. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3657), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. MURRAY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am advised that we are now prepared to go to a vote on the McCain amendment. For that purpose, I ask for the regular order.

AMENDMENT NO. 3616

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The McCain amendment No. 3616 is now pending. The yeas and nays were previously ordered on the amendment.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 37, nays 61, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 108 Leg.]

YEAS—37

Alexander	DeWine	McCain
Allen	Ensign	McConnell
Bingaman	Enzi	Murkowski
Brownback	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bunning	Frist	Santorum
Burr	Graham	Sessions
Carper	Gregg	Snowe
Chafee	Hagel	Sununu
Coburn	Inhofe	Thomas
Collins	Isakson	Voinovich
Cornyn	Kyl	Warner
Craig	Lieberman	
DeMint	Lugar	

NAYS—61

Akaka	Dorgan	Murray
Allard	Durbin	Nelson (FL)
Baucus	Feinstein	Obama
Bayh	Grassley	Pryor
Bennett	Harkin	Reed
Biden	Hutchison	Reid
Bond	Inouye	Roberts
Boxer	Jeffords	Salazar
Burns	Johnson	Sarbanes
Byrd	Kennedy	Schumer
Cantwell	Kerry	Shelby
Chambliss	Kohl	Smith
Clinton	Landrieu	Specter
Cochran	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Coleman	Leahy	Stevens
Conrad	Levin	Talent
Crapo	Lincoln	Thune
Dayton	Lott	Vitter
Dodd	Martinez	Wyden
Dole	Menendez	
Domenici	Mikulski	

NOT VOTING—2

Hatch Rockefeller

The amendment (No. 3616) was rejected.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COBURN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today, life in America is tough. People are working very hard to make ends meet. In so many cases, families have to earn two incomes to meet their basic needs: mom working one shift, dad working another shift.

It is a mystery to me, and I am sure it is to so many people in our country,